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TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE BOARD OF
FISHERIES
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1932

TO THE
GOVERNOR AND
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



1932

PRINTED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE
JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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STATE BOARD OF FISHERIES

PERSONNEL

J. M. Witsell, Chairman, Walterboro, S. C.
C. L. Young, Georgetown, S. C.
L. A. Hall, Beaufort, S. C.
(Mrs.) Louise M. Bussey, Secretary and Clerk, Charleston, S. C., Office: 403 Peoples Office Building, Charleston, South Carolina.

INSPECTORS

Chief Inspector: E. D. Raney, Beaufort, S. C.
District No. 1: J. S. Graves, Bluffton, S. C.
District No. 2: W. A. Tuten, Jacksonboro, S. C.
District No. 3: T. H. J. Williams, Charleston, S. C.
District No. 4: J. F. Bellune, Georgetown, S. C.
District No. 5: J. R. Thompson, Conway, S. C.

REPORT

To His Excellency, Ibra C. Blackwood, Governor, and the Honorable General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, Session 1933:

The State Board of Fisheries of South Carolina begs to submit herewith, its Twenty-sixth Annual Report.

We are pleased to report that during the past year we have been able to continue and extend a most aggressive policy in the conservation of our fish and oyster resources, collection of revenue therefrom and enforcement of the laws pertaining thereto, which policy was undertaken by this Board more than two years ago. The affairs of the department are being conducted on a most business-like basis and we find that we have been able to make some improvement on the orderly and efficient manner in which they have been managed before. We have continued to hold regular Board meetings on the first Thursday of each month at our offices in Charleston and the Chairman in addition to being always available and constantly supervising the work, is at the office in Charleston on Thursday of each week, as well as two or three other days during the month. Thus sufficient time is being given to the business of the Board to insure the same being handled in a most efficient manner and its entire affairs are handled so as to make it as convenient as possible for all persons interested in the fisheries industry to transact business with the department. In addition to the time being given by the Chairman and the Board members, the office is open every day in the week except Sunday and is in the hands of a business-like secretary who thoroughly understands the affairs and workings of the Board and takes a keen interest in seeing that they are properly managed.

Every effort is being made to cooperate in every possible manner with people engaged in the fisheries and oyster businesses so as to assist them in handling their business in a profitable manner. But, at the same time due care is being taken to see that the favors granted to these people do not in any way interfere with the chief purpose and ultimate object of this Board. A great deal of time has been spent and efforts put forth to

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amicably compromise disputes between parties engaged in the industry and especially in cases where two or more parties have been desirous of obtaining a lease to the same oyster beds or bottoms. In these cases the Board has gone out of its way in order to locate other suitable beds or bottoms in order that both applicants might be satisfied and, we are pleased to report that in most instances we have been quite successful. We find that these efforts of the Board to assist the people engaged in the industry have engendered in these same people a spirit of cooperation, reciprocation and good will toward the Board which will have a most beneficial effect in the building up of the industry in this State.

We have, during the past year, continued a most aggressive policy in the enforcement of all laws, rules and regulations pertaining to the fish and shell-fish industry. During 1928 the Board only collected fines in the amount of \$10.00. In 1929 the sum of \$205.00 was collected and following that, in 1930 the sum of \$165.00 and in 1931 the sum of \$800.90. During the year 1932 the Board adopted a more efficient and vigilant patrolling system which resulted in more apprehensions and consequently many more convictions than ever before. We have this year collected approximately \$575.00 in fines which is the highest income from this source yet with the exception of 1931 when the income was abnormally high due to the apprehension and conviction of a fleet of shrimp boats operating near Beaufort without licenses. We are of opinion that this increased vigilance in patrolling is gradually bringing to a stop rank violations of our laws and believe that the coming year will bring a greatly decreased number of violations but, on the other hand, will show an increase in revenue collected from impost tax stamps and licenses bought by parties who have heretofore been violators and evaders of the law. While we have, as pointed out, been patrolling with an increased vigilance, we have at the same time endeavored to be fair and liberal in the construction of all laws, rules and regulations and have not endeavored to prosecute cases without warning the parties at least once where it appeared that there was no intent on the part of the accused to evade the law or deprive the State of revenue to which it is justly entitled.

The Chairman has been very active in seeing that the Inspectors are at all times on the job and working in every way that they can to build up the industry and better the conditions therein. They have been strictly required to make their reports on polluted waters as well as all other reports that the United States Bureau of Fisheries requires. Should this have been neglected in South Carolina we would most probably have met the same fate which some other States have been confronted with, where a ban was put on some of their sea foods which prevented them shipping beyond their borders. The United States Government is very particular in seeing that these reports are made to their office and it is very essential for the health and safety of the people of South Carolina that we exert every effort to insure their getting sea foods that are in no way contaminated.

Due to general conditions during the past year the margin of profit for operators in the industry has been decidedly small and many of them have been unable to pay the rent which their leases called for and in view of this the Board has allowed general reduction in rentals for the year. This, however, has not in any sense decreased revenue as the reductions have kept the maximum number of people constructively engaged in the industry and the decrease in revenue from the rentals has been more than made up for by keeping production up to a maximum. At the same time the interests of conservation have been served by keeping a maximum amount of land under cultivation. The Board having reduced rentals to a scale that the lessees are able to pay, keeps up to date records to see that these rentals are paid promptly.

It is quite remarkable and a source of great pleasure to the Board that in spite of general depression conditions it appears at the time of writing this report that we shall have a decided increase in revenue for the State of South Carolina for the year 1932 and we wish to state that this increase was not gained by raising the price of licenses or the rate of taxation but has been brought about by the efforts of this Board in seeing that the law was enforced and that all persons who were required by law to purchase licenses or stamps, did so. The efficient manner in which this was accomplished by the Board is in large part attributable to the confidence and authority which the General

Assembly has seen fit to place with us. Given a free rein to work for the development of the fish and oyster industry and consequently for the best interests of the State of South Carolina, we are confident that we can continue to show a decided increase in revenue from year to year.

There is a great possibility for the development of this industry in South Carolina and we feel that every dollar spent in the development and protection of this industry is money well spent. It is one of the greatest resources that the coastal section of South Carolina has. If it were not a time of great depression we would certainly request a much larger appropriation from the General Assembly than we have requested for development and protection of the fish and oyster industry. But, under the prevailing conditions and in keeping with the times we feel that we should exert every effort to keep this industry intact and build it up in every way possible with the most economical amount of money and we have, consequently, requested an appropriation less than that which we received last year.

We need not again remind you that this Board is operating on a "pay its own way" basis and a reference to our reports for a number of years past will show that the margin between the costs of operating this Board and the greater amount of revenue turned into the coffers of the State by it, has yearly been widening in favor of the State. Some of our resources are still to some extent depleted but productive oyster lands are above normal and other resources under our jurisdiction are steadily increasing under our present aggressive conservation policies. We do not feel that the mere fact that we are paying our own way gives us any license to be prodigal with the State's money and this is evidenced by our reduced requests which we honestly believe constitute the absolutely zero amount upon which this Board can operate and still continue to conserve the resources of the State and yearly turn in an increasing amount of revenue to the State.

SHAD AND SHAD HATCHERIES

In 1929 the Legislature appropriated \$2,500.00 for the establishment of shad hatcheries for the purpose of placing small

shad or "fry" into our waters. That appropriation has been continued by each subsequent Legislature and while we are asking for a lesser amount this year, we urgently request that it be made. We feel that as this phase of our operations has gotten well under way, it can be carried on with the smaller amount requested. We are pleased to report that these appropriations began this year to yield a return to the State as evidenced by an increased catch of shad and consequently, an increase in revenue of approximately 25% over the year 1931. It is noteworthy that this increase was accomplished in spite of the fact that the price of shad this year was very low and there were, as a result, fewer people engaged in shad fishing. As we have called to your attention in prior reports, a peculiarity of shad is that they return to the waters in which they were spawned, usually from two and one-half to three years thereafter. Therefore, we can only catch in our streams shad which were hatched there and we feel that the increased catch this year was the result of the placing of nearly 7,000,000 "fry" in our streams since these appropriations were commenced. Of course, the increase this year was only in proportion to the number of "fry" placed into our waters the first year, this number being 280,000. As we have continued from year to year to place large numbers of small "fry" in the streams it is safe to assume that we will be rewarded with a still larger catch next year and the years following. In this connection we wish to extend due credit and thanks to the United States Bureau of Fisheries which has been very cooperative and helpful. Among other things, they send down experts during each shad season to operate the hatcheries. Due to their advice only one hatchery was run this year and that was the hatchery on the Edisto River. It, however, was run on a most business-like basis which prevented any fish being sold without being inspected by one of our inspectors, with the result that we succeeded in obtaining practically all of the eggs from each fish that was caught for the hatchery. The hatcheries are only operated after the season has closed, this, of course, being the spawning season. This year in order to prevent any unauthorized persons from fishing for shad out of season, we allowed only eight men to fish for the hatchery and each of these men received a card authorizing him to do so. All of the fish caught

were required to be brought to the dock at the hatchery for inspection for the purpose of gathering the eggs from which the young fish are hatched. We also did not allow any of these fish to be sold except at the hatchery dock, after they had been milked of all their eggs and the eggs fertilized. It is the ultimate object of the Board, when the present shad rivers have been sufficiently stocked, to expand the hatcheries operations and place shad in other rivers, such as the Peedee, in which shad used to run, but where they have now been practically exterminated. We believe that we have sufficiently progressed with the stocking of the Edisto, Black and Salkehatchie rivers to enable us to begin stocking these other rivers within the next year or two. The re-stocking of the rivers with shad from hatcheries has proven very successful in Virginia and other states and is essential to the continuation and further development of the industry in our State. It is interesting to note that hundreds of fishermen and their families gain a large part of their livelihood from shad fishing.

In 1931 at our request the Legislature passed an Act changing the mesh in shad nets from $5\frac{1}{2}$ " to 6". This is proving very beneficial in that it allows many young buck shad which are essential to spawning, to escape, which would be caught in a $5\frac{1}{2}$ " mesh net. This Act carried a provision allowing fishermen who owned $5\frac{1}{2}$ " mesh nets to use them through the season of 1932 and we have this year been most vigilant in preventing any new nets of $5\frac{1}{2}$ " mesh being put into use. Last year we requested that the open season on shad be changed from January 15th to March 25th to from January 15th to April 1st and that it be made to apply to all waters at the same time. We are again urgently requesting that this change be made as we consider the present open season one of the greatest drawbacks to the shad industry in South Carolina. Shad, in reality, are much less edible after April 1st and April is the month in which a great portion of the spawning takes place. Under the present law the season is closed on March 25th up to forty miles from the mouth of streams. Above the forty mile limit the season is open until April 20th. In addition to presenting a serious difficulty in the enforcement of the law, this provision makes it possible to catch shad during the month when they should be spawning without being molested. Some of the most fertile

spawning grounds are beyond the forty mile limit, the locus of which limit, under the present law, is very difficult to fix. We earnestly recommend that the season be equally applicable to all waters at the same time. We are also requesting and urge that you pass an Act changing the space between shad sets from "not less than two hundred yards" to "not less than four hundred yards." This would be another forward step in the preservation of the industry, which if properly preserved, will furnish most delectable food to some of us, work to many of our citizens, and most substantial revenue to the State.

CLAMS

Commercial catching of clams has been confined almost altogether to Georgetown and Horry counties. Three years ago, due to the rapid depletion of the clams, the Board of Fisheries declared a closed season on clams in those counties. This year we conducted a survey of this area and concluded that the supply was sufficiently replenished to raise this embargo and we have consequently opened the season. There will be some revenue from this industry this year and we are hopeful of an increased revenue in the years to come.

TERRAPIN

The price and demand for terrapin has been extremely poor for the past several years and there has been very little activity in this industry. Feeling that the terrapin market would undoubtedly improve at some time in the near future, the Board has strictly enforced all laws for the protection of this resource. We now feel that our diligence will most probably be rewarded within the next year as it is now apparent that alcoholic beverages will again be legalized in the United States and it is a recognized fact that the prohibition law had a most ruinous effect on this industry. We have large numbers of marketable terrapin on our coast and once the prohibition law is repealed or modified we should be certain of a gratifying amount of revenue to our State and income to our citizens from this source.

STURGEON

There has been practically no change in the catch of sturgeon during the past year or in the revenue derived therefrom.

Price and demand both continue to be poor and revenue from this source is almost negligible in South Carolina. If the demand were not so poor we would recommend that money be appropriated for the propagation of these fish but under the existing conditions we do not see any need for any change in existing laws and licenses, hence are making no recommendations affecting this fish.

SHRIMP

There has been no appreciable change in this industry during the past year. It is an unfortunate circumstance that very little is known as to the habits of shrimp. Some years we have shrimp in large numbers while in other years for no apparent reason, very few shrimp arrive on our coast. As the cause of this is not known, it is impossible for us to do anything to improve the slack years. This year, as well as last, the run of shrimp in our waters has been below normal and in addition to this the price and demand have been very poor. The price of shrimp during recent years has been as high as 58 cents per pound and this year has been as low as 8 cents per pound, thus rendering the shrimp industry a rather unprofitable one. In spite of these unfortunate circumstances over which we have absolutely no control, there has been no material decline in revenue from this source.

We are asking in our requests that the shrimp boat license be increased from \$5.00 to \$15.00 and that the shrimp net license law be repealed. This will reduce operating and enforcement expenses without hardship to anyone as a boat cannot be used without a net and vice versa. We wish to call to your attention that even this increase will still leave shrimp licenses lower in this State than in most other states.

Our investigation of the laws in other states relative to shrimp-ing discloses that the majority of states charge a higher license for alien or non-resident boats trawling in their waters than for resident boats. As no such distinction is made under the South Carolina law you can readily see that shrimp operators residing in South Carolina operate at a distinct disadvantage in that they have to pay an enormous license when trawling in foreign waters and when these alien or non-resident operators come into our waters they trawl at no greater expense than our

own citizens. We, therefore, recommend that the shrimp boat license as requested above be made to apply to South Carolina owned boats only and that all alien or non-resident boats be required to pay a shrimp license of \$25.00 and that no net license be required.

OYSTERS

As far as can be ascertained at the writing of this report there will be practically no change in the amount of oysters produced during the year 1932. We feel that, in view of the existing conditions, we are extremely fortunate to have avoided a drastic decline in production and consequently a decrease in revenue. The price of oysters during the past year has been low enough that quite a large number of operators would most probably have been forced out of the business had it not been for the unwavering cooperation and assistance rendered to them at all times by this Board.

During the past year approximately 400,000 bushels of oyster shell and seed oysters have been planted under the supervision of this Board on public and leased beds. This figure represents a slight decrease over 1931 and the reason for the decrease is that under our laws and regulations the amount of shell and seed oysters planted is governed by both the amount of production by the operators in the industry and by the amount of acreage under lease. This year while we have more actually productive oyster lands under lease than ever before, the total acreage under lease is less than for the year 1931. Heretofore, many of the older leases, which have now expired, included large areas of land which were not properly suited to oyster production but, in recent years the Board has increased the rental rates and has endeavored to include in the leases only lands or beds strictly suitable for the culture and production of oysters, and, hence the decrease in the total acreage leased.

For the purpose of experimentation in the planting of seed oysters, the Board staked off and posted ten acres of State owned oyster beds in Beaufort County on the Cooper River and planted thereon 12,255 bushels of seed oysters. It appears at the present time that this experiment will prove quite a success as the oysters thereon are now very healthy and growing rapidly. By the season of 1933-34 it will be possible to remove

four times as many oysters as we have planted, leaving a good supply and insuring a fine crop of oysters each year thereafter.

During the past few years upon the recommendation of the United States Bureau of Fisheries there has been quite a lot of experimenting with cardboard collectors coated with cement for the purpose of catching oyster spat. These experiments have been carried on by the Board as well as private operators and in addition to this, some private operators have been experimenting with stakes and brush placed in the water for the same purpose. From these experiments it appears that both of these methods can and will be most advantageously used in the industry at some time in the near future, but as yet, they have not been perfected to such an extent as to make them preferable to the planting of shell.

In our last report we referred at some length to various researches and studies, both national and local, concerning oysters as to the nutritional value thereof. We feel that it is unnecessary for us in this report to dwell at length upon the nutritional contents of oysters such as iron, copper, manganese and iodine or their peculiar value in the treatment of anemia and goiter patients. Suffice it to say that as far as we have been able to ascertain, South Carolina oysters took a leading position in all of these researches and analyses when compared with oysters of other localities. It is regrettable that South Carolina oysters have not yet been developed sufficiently to compare favorably in size with oysters from all other localities, this being due largely to the fact that this resource did not receive proper attention in this State until very recent years. We are pleased to report, however, that as a result of our efforts and experiments in oyster culture in recent years, the size of South Carolina oysters has been increased to such an extent that we are firmly convinced that within a very few years South Carolina will be producing oysters superior in every respect to any oyster produced in the United States. At the present time we feel that probably the two greatest needs for the advancement of this industry in South Carolina are, first, advertising to make the nation conscious of the value and superiority of our product and, second—a continuation and expansion of our present system of planting and experimentation with oyster beds. With reference to our suggestion as to advertising, we find that in a

number of other states, money is being spent to nationally advertise oysters and in the year 1930 the Legislature of the State of Maryland appropriated for the purpose of advertising Maryland oysters, approximately \$40,000.00. We are quite confident that there is a bright future ahead for the oyster industry in South Carolina but believe that these two features just pointed out are essential to putting South Carolina on the map as an oyster producing state.

OYSTER LAND LEASES

As heretofore pointed out in this report, this Board has been most diligent in seeing that the leasing of oyster lands was successful in building up the industry as well as in producing revenue for the State. The revenue from this source during the past year has been pleasing and would have been much greater except for two factors: formerly, leases executed by the Board provided that each year's rental be paid in advance from the date of the execution of the lease but it was found that this provision carried with it quite a lot of unnecessary bookkeeping work for the Board and in view of this we have this year issued leases upon the payment of rental up to the first day of January 1933 with the provision that each year's rental thereafter be paid in advance upon the first day of January each year. This, of course, simplifies bookkeeping and enforcement of the law relating to leases as when we have been operating under this new system for several years, all rentals with the exception of the first payment, will be due on the 1st day of January each year. Then, as before pointed out in this report, due to the extreme depression there was a general reduction of rentals for the year 1932 which, of course, kept our income from this source from being as high as it might have been. This, however, did not affect our total revenue as hereinbefore pointed out.

MENHADEN

For the past several years there has been very little activity in this industry in our State, there being only one factory operating on the coast of South Carolina, which factory is located at Georgetown. The reason for the reduced operations is that there has been very little demand for the two main

products of the industry, which are fish scrap, used in the making of fertilizer, and fish oil, used in the manufacture of soap and other such articles. Of course, the impoverished condition of agriculture in this section of the country has materially reduced the demand for fertilizer and at the same time, soap manufacturers have found it cheaper to import the necessary oils for their businesses. It may not seem, in view of these facts, that this is an important resource of our State but it is reasonable to presume that even though the oil products may not be well enough protected by our tariff laws, still it is certain that the fertilizer demand in our State, which is basically agricultural, will have to return within the next few years to a much higher level than it now occupies. For this reason we feel that it is urgent and necessary that this resource be protected in order that our citizens may make use thereof in the future when the demand has improved. Practically all other states have a tax on these fish as well as a license on boats engaged in the industry and we feel that this resource should be protected in our State at least to the extent of requiring licenses on boats operating in the industry. We are, therefore, requesting that an Act be passed placing a license of \$25.00 per boat on all boats of fifty (50) tons or over and a license of \$15.00 on every other boat or vessel used in South Carolina waters for the purpose of catching menhaden. Upon failure to obtain the necessary license, we ask that the fine be not less than \$50.00 per boat or thirty days imprisonment and that any boat operating without a license be subject to confiscation.

OTHER COASTAL FISH

In the waters of coastal South Carolina are to be found many varieties of fish which are being caught for market on a large scale. It is somewhat surprising that up to the present time very little has been done to protect this vast natural resource and to prevent its depletion. At the present time there are only two varieties of coastal fish which the State of South Carolina has taken any definite aggressive steps to protect. These are shad and sturgeon. Thousands and thousands of pounds of small fish which never have an opportunity to mature, are being caught yearly in our coastal waters and placed upon the market, their size being so small as to render their catch

and sale barely profitable to the fishermen. If this industry is to continue and prosper in our State it is imperative that legislation be immediately passed regulating the size of blue fish, mullet, salt water trout, sea bass, flounders, whiting and sheep-head, that shall be caught in our waters and, we expect to present a bill at this session of the Legislature specifying the limitations as to size on these various fish. Of course, in order to protect these fish and enforce whatever laws for their protection you may see fit to pass, additional funds will be required and we therefore request that a small tax be placed upon all of the above named fish in order to take care of the expense necessary to the enforcement of the laws for their protection. The advantages to be gained by legislation along these lines are almost beyond the scope of our imagination. Such legislation will allow salt water fish to vastly increase in size and number which cannot help but mean a profitable source of income to our State from a commercial standpoint and also prove satisfactory and pleasing to the sportsmen of our State as well as visiting sportsmen from other states.

REQUESTS

1. The Act of 1928 vesting the Board with full jurisdiction of oyster and clam beds has proved to be very constructive and beneficial legislation. We now request that the Board be given the same authority with regard to jurisdiction and control over Shad, Sturgeon, Shrimp, Terrapin, Crabs, etc. The passage of such legislation would, of course, obviate the necessity of passing legislation to carry out the other requests here made.

2. We ask that an Act be passed changing the open season on Shad from January 15th to March 25th to from January 15th to April 1st and that the Act be made to apply equally to the entire State. The effect would be a closed season in all waters at the same time. This would work little, if any, hardship upon the fishermen and at the same time it would make enforcement of the law easier. The most valuable result of such a law, however, would be that Shad would not then be caught during the spawning season and would prevent the present heavy yearly depletion of the number of shad.

3. That the Board be given authority to employ District Inspectors and to discharge them when necessary. It is, of course,

impossible to obtain the maximum of efficiency from men whom you cannot discharge for non-performance of duty.

4. That the price of Swimming Fish licenses be increased from \$2.50 to \$5.00. This is a very nominal price and is far below that obtained in most other states. It would result in increased revenue.

5. That the net license for Shrimp fishing be discontinued and the shrimp boat license be increased to \$15.00 per boat for *bona fide* residents of South Carolina and to \$25.00 per boat for all non-resident or alien boats. As each shrimp boat must have a net, this would not cause hardship, would substitute one tax for two and generally simplify collections. EXCEPT in Horry County where they use shrimp nets and no boats and in that county that the license for the net still remain at the same price, which is \$5.00 per net.

6. Repeal Section 76 of the Fisheries Act, giving right to fish for self or family. The repeal of this Act would result in material decrease of violations and tend presently, to help in the conservation of both fish and oysters.

7. That a tax of one (\$0.01) cent per bushel be placed on oyster shell which is to be moved and used for purposes other than planting oyster beds. This tax would be very reasonable and would greatly increase the amount of shell planted, which would result in increased oyster production.

8. That a tax of \$1.50 per bateau be imposed on all bateaus used for taking oysters.

9. That the law as to replanting of oyster shells be changed so as to require all persons gathering oysters to replant 50% of the amount gathered instead of 33 1-3% as at present.

10. We renew and urgently recommend that a tax of five cents per gallon be imposed on all raw oysters sold in South Carolina, and a tax of two cents for each sixty ounces of canned oysters sold in South Carolina. These are the present taxes on South Carolina oysters and it is only fair to South Carolina producers that it be passed, so as to bear equally on imported oysters.

11. That the license on Gill Nets be increased from \$0.25 per 100 yards to \$0.50 per 100 yards. The price of the license would still be very nominal with the increase.

12. The present law requires that Shad sets be placed not closer than two hundred (200) yards apart. We ask that this be changed so as to prohibit sets being placed closer together than four hundred (400) yards.

13. That an Act be passed requiring all Shad or Sturgeon nets to be removed from the banks of streams within three days after the close of the season and to provide as a penalty for violation thereof, confiscation of the net or nets and a fine of not less than \$25.00 nor more than \$100.00 per net or imprisonment for not less than five nor more than thirty days per net.

14. That an Act be passed increasing the following licenses:

Shrimp Cannery License	from \$1.00 to \$5.00
Raw Oyster-in-Shell Shippers License	from \$1.00 to \$5.00
Raw Oyster Shucking Shed License	from \$1.00 to \$5.00
Oyster Cannery License	from \$1.00 to \$5.00

15. That an Act be passed placing a license of \$15.00 on each Barge or Lighter, used in gathering oysters, of five (5) tons and over. That a license of \$4.50 be placed on Barges or Lighters of less than five (5) tons. These amounts have been collected for many years but we have been unable to find the law covering same.

16. That an Act be passed fixing the penalty for violation of any of the above Acts of \$50.00 on each offense or thirty days imprisonment.

17. That an Act be passed amending Section 53, Law on Scoops and Dredges, by adding "EXCEPT BY LICENSE ISSUED BY BOARD."

Section 53—LAW ON SCOOPS OR DREDGES.

It shall be unlawful to use scoops, scrapes, or dredges, to take shellfish in waters less than twelve feet deep at low tide, and each violation of this provision shall be punishable by fine of not less than Two Hundred and Fifty (\$250.00) Dollars or imprisonment of not less than six months.

18. That an Act be passed licensing Dredges carrying 600 bushels or more of oysters, said license to be \$25.00. That on Dredges carrying less than 600 bushels a license of \$20.00 and a penalty for violation of same be provided.

19. We ask that an Act be passed placing a license fee of \$25.00 per boat on all boats carrying fifty tons or more and

that a license of \$15.00 be placed on all other boats operating in South Carolina waters, for the purpose of catching MENHADEN. Upon failure to obtain license, we ask that the fine be not less than \$50.00 per boat or thirty days imprisonment and that the boat operating without license be subject to confiscation.

20. We ask that the following Proviso be withdrawn for the reason that people are abusing this Proviso, selling fish in quantities of from fifty to three hundred barrels and we have been unable to get convictions for this rank violation on account of this Proviso.

Section 75—LICENSES ON FISHERMEN.

An annual license tax for the year beginning as hereinafter shown shall be required of each person who shall engage in any of the following industries for market.

Crabs, beginning January 1st, \$5.00; Swimming Fish from salt water, beginning January 1st, \$2.50; Shrimp, beginning January 1st, \$5.00; Sturgeon, beginning with the open season, for residents, \$100.00; Terrapin, for each place of business, \$25.00.

PROVIDED, THERE SHALL BE NO TAX LEVIED OR COLLECTED FROM ANY BONA FIDE CITIZEN OF THE STATE TO TAKE FISH, CRABS, SHRIMP, OR OYSTERS FOR SELF OR FAMILY OR FOR SALE OF THE INDIVIDUAL CATCH AT RETAIL ON LOCAL MARKET.

21. We recommend that the following words be added in Section 63, which reads as follows:

Section 63—MINIMUM SIZE OF OYSTERS.

All oysters taken from public grounds of the State AND LEASED LANDS shall be culled and all oysters, the shells of which measure less than three inches from hinge to mouth, except what are attached to a larger oyster and cannot be removed without destroying them, and a shell taken, and all clams of less than one and one-half inches in width, shall be returned to the public OR LEASED GROUNDS near where taken, and no oysters shall be marketed containing more than ten per cent of culls; such prohibited sizes to be measured in bulk. And it shall be unlawful for any person engaged in shucking or canning oysters for market to shuck, can, purchase or have in possession oysters containing more than ten per cent of prohibited size as above provided under penalty of fine or not less than Two Hundred (\$200.00) Dollars or imprisonment not less than one month nor more than twelve months.

22. We ask that a license be placed on drag seines of 100 to 300 yards or over, and that the tax be \$25.00. That for viola-

tion of not purchasing this license a penalty of not less than \$50.00 fine or thirty days imprisonment be imposed. These are large seines and require anywhere from fifteen to twenty men to operate them and they gather loads of fish from the waters.

23. We ask that a license be placed on all Drag or Haul Seines of not less than 100 yards in the amount of \$10.00. For violation of this provision we ask that a penalty of not less than \$50.00 fine or thirty days imprisonment be imposed.

24. We urgently recommend that a tax of two (\$.02) cents for each sixty (60) ounces of canned clams be imposed. There is no tax on canned clams at present.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

J. M. WITSELL, Chairman,
C. L. YOUNG,
L. A. HALL.

Attest:

MRS. LOUISE M. BUSSEY, Secretary,
Charleston, S. C., December 15th, 1932.

Appropriation for 1932	\$21,370.00	
Unused Appropriation	4,731.07	
	<u>\$16,638.93</u>	
Receipts		\$22,242.39
		<u>16,638.93</u>
Net		\$ 5,603.46
Shrimp Caught (lbs.)	2,799,696	
Shrimp Headed (lbs.)	1,032,842	
Shrimp Canned (ozs.)	4,250,960	
Oysters Gathered in Shell (bus.)	505,142	
Oysters Shucked Raw (gals.)	31,174	
Oysters Canned (ozs.)	18,986,122	
Number Shad Caught	50,585	
Number Terrapin Caught	1,706	
Number Terrapin Shipped	942	
Oyster Shell Planted (bus.)	392,852	
Seed Oysters Planted (bus.)	56,310	
Number Sturgeon Caught	636	
Number Pounds Caviar	232	
Oyster Land Rented (acres)	4,546.66	

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT

	1931	1932
Canned Oysters	\$5,746.02	\$6,674.64
Raw Oyster Stamps	1,519.66	1,567.16
Oysters in Shell	113.80	86.40
Clam Stamps	27.10	2.60
Shad Tags	2,862.69	3,543.20
Terrapin Stamps	249.30	56.40
Raw Shrimp Stamps	965.09	1,334.41
Cooked Shrimp Stamps	519.89	670.90
Registered Boat Licenses	556.50	628.50
Non-Registered Boat Licenses	132.50	84.00
Swimming Fish Licenses	1,320.00	1,592.50
Shrimp Boat Licenses	625.00	510.00
Shrimp Net Licenses	620.00	515.00
Gill Net Licenses	213.25	219.00
Oyster Cannery Licenses	6.00	3.00
Terrapin Pen Licenses	150.00	50.00
Shad Buyers and Shippers Licenses	325.00	375.00
Sturgeon Net Licenses	210.00	165.00
Sturgeon Buyers and Shippers Licenses	300.00	300.00
Shrimp Buyers and Shippers Licenses	70.00	105.00
Oyster Shucking Shed Licenses	44.00	35.00
Shrimp Cannery Licenses	1.00	2.00
Oyster Land Rent	3,842.47	2,612.23
Fines	800.90	473.15
Oyster Picker's Bateau Licenses	303.00	276.00
Hickory Shad Tags	32.92	66.30
Oyster Barge Licenses	290.50	282.00
Oyster-in-Shell Shippers Licenses	2.00	5.00
Miscellaneous Stamps Sold in Georgetown County		5.00
Trap Net License		3.00
	<u>\$21,848.59</u>	<u>\$22,242.39</u>

REVENUE FROM DIFFERENT COUNTIES ITEMIZED

	Beaufort	Charleston	Colleton	Georgetown	Horry	Dorchester	Calhoun
Canned Oyster Stamps	\$3,387.24	\$3,277.40	.....	\$10.00	.....	.....	.....
Raw Oyster Stamps	1,150.36	390.25	.....	20.00	\$6.55	.....	.....
Oysters in Shell	10.50	68.60	\$3.30	.....	7.00	.....	.....
Clam Stamps .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2.60	.....	.....
Hickory Shad Stamps	2.00	.....	.....	60.18	4.12	.....	.....
Shad Stamps	342.88	1,615.84	36.32	1,382.32	134.72	\$31.12	.....
Terrapin Stamps	36.00	10.20	.....	.....	10.20	.....	.....
Raw Shrimp Stamps	991.53	307.25	.....	35.63	.....	.....	.....
Cooked Shrimp Stamps ..	657.07	13.83	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Registered Boat License ..	604.50	24.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Non-Registered Boat License	63.00	21.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Swimming Fish License ..	205.00	365.00	200.00	690.00	125.00	7.50	.....
Shrimp Boat License	355.00	135.00	.....	20.00	.....	.....	.....
Shrimp Net License	355.00	135.00	.....	25.00	.....	.....	.....
Oyster Cannerns License ...	1.00	2.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Gill Net License	28.00	45.00	27.00	103.75	13.75	1.50	.....
Terrapin Pen License .....	.....	25.00	.....	25.00	.....	.....	.....
Shad Buyers and Shippers License	25.00	75.00	.....	225.00	50.00	.....	.....
Sturgeon Net License .....	.....	.....	30.00	135.00	.....	.....	.....
Oyster Shucking Shed License	18.00	15.00	.....	.....	2.00	.....	.....
Sturgeon Buyers and Shippers License .....	.....	.....	100.00	200.00	.....	.....	.....
Oyster Land Rent	1,706.33	619.90	225.00	61.00	.....	.....	.....
Oyster-in-Shell Shippers License	1.00	4.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Shrimp Buyers and Shippers License	25.00	45.00	.....	35.00	.....	.....	.....
Shrimp Cannerns License ..	1.00	1.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Oyster Picker's Bateau License	193.50	67.50	.....	6.00	9.00	.....	.....
Oyster Barge License	247.50	34.50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Fines	145.00	75.75	182.40	60.00	.....	.....	\$10.00
Miscellaneous Stamps .....	.....	.....	.....	5.00	.....	.....	.....
Trap Net License .....	.....	3.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Totals	\$10,551.41	\$7,376.02	\$801.02	\$3,098.88	\$364.94	\$40.12	\$10.00